

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LILONG 00377 101449Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01

A-01 SY-05 OPR-02 /063 W

-----101500Z 106418 /53

R 101151Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 710

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MI

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: LILONGWE 0321

1. REPORTS THAT A GROUP OF POLITICAL DETAINEES WOULD BE RELEASED FOR MARTYR'S DAY, MARCH 3, PROVED CORRECT. ESTIMATES OF TOTAL NUMBER VARY FROM 200-280. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY KIND OR STORY IN THE NEWS MEDIA.

2. WE HAVE REPORT FROM ONE OF THOSE RELEASED THAT PRIOR TO RELEASE THEY WERE ASSEMBLED AND ADDRESSED BY POLICE COMMISSIONER KAMWANA WHO TOLD THEM RELEASE WAS WITHOUT CONDITIONS; THAT THEY WERE FREE TO GO WHERE THEY WISHED AND TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER JOBS, BUSINESSES OR PROFESSIONS. SINCE MOST OF GROUP WERE FROM CIVIL SERVICE THEY ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED.

3. SOURCE HIMSELF, A FORMER ASSISTANT D.C., HOPES HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE WITH A PENION. HE WAS DETAINED SOME 3 YEARS AGO IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISMISSAL AND CONFINEMENT TO VILLAGE OF FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION, JOHN MSONTHI. HE WAS NEVER PHYSICALLY MISTREATED AND SEEMED IN REASONABLE PHYSICAL CONDITION -- SAID RECEIVED TLO MEALS A DAY. GREATEST DISCOMFORT WAS BOREDOM AND FRUSTRATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LILONG 00377 101449Z

RUMOR IN THE PRISON IS THAT ANOTHER GROUP WILL BE RELEASED IN MAY FOR KAMUZU DAY (PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY) WHICH WILL INCLUDE FORMER UNIVERSITY SENIOR OFFICIALS JOHN BANDA AND PETER MWANZA.

4. WE HAVE ALSO LEARED THAT FORMER USIS PART TIME EMPLOYEES MENTIONED REFTTEL WHO WERE MONTORING VOA BROADCASTS WERE AMONG GROUP JUST RELEASED. FROM OTHER SOURCE WE HAVE LEARNED THAT FORMER MINISTER

IN WASHINGTON, GEORGE BANDA, WAS RELEASED SOMEWHAT EARLIER AND
HAS RETURNED TO HIS HOME TOWN OF NKHATA BAY.
STEVENSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LILONG00377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770082-1047
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770374/aaaacmxx.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73aed1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LILONGWE 321
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3152164
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MI, (BANDA, JOHN), (MWANZA, PETER), (BANDA, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73aed1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009